LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 377 Sofia, December 16, 1939.

EU
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AMC

Subject: The Prime Minister's statements to the press on foreign affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1940 JAN 16 PM 5 09
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

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DIVISION OF
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
JAN 17 1940
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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JAN 31 1940

ADVISER ON POLITICAL RELATIONS
MR. DUNN
JAN 27 1940
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that in the last three weeks the Prime Minister has, contrary to his custom, made statements on foreign affairs to foreign journalists visiting Sofia, namely, to Mr. Jules Sauerwein, of PARIS-SOIR, and to the correspondents of NEA HELLAS of Athens and of the GIORNALE D'ITALIA. In these interviews Mr. Kiosseivanoff reiterated the determination of Bulgaria to pursue a policy of peace and to seek a settlement of her....

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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JAN 30 1940
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

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her claims with neighboring countries by negotiation. He declared that Bulgaria would not exploit the difficulties of a neighboring country (Rumania), thus supporting Balkan solidarity.

In the interview given to PARIS-SOIR, a translation of which is enclosed, the Prime Minister declared publicly for the first time that Bulgaria hopes to recover her boundaries of 1913 by peaceful negotiation. These included the Southern Dobrudja, an outlet to the Aegean, and some small areas on Bulgaria's western frontier which were given to Yugoslavia after the war. It will be remembered that a similar statement, expressing the revisionist program of Bulgaria, was made at a "secret" meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs last April and caused lively repercussions, especially in Ankara (see despatch No. 253, of May 19). As previously reported, the assurances regarding the pacific policy of Bulgaria have repeatedly been expressed to me by the Prime Minister before and after the outbreak of war. Although he has occasionally made similar remarks to press representatives, it is the first time that such long and explicit statements have appeared on this subject in foreign papers.

As of possible interest in this relation, the statement given to the correspondent of the NEA HELLAS has been used by Reuters for a telegram which greatly irritated Mr. Kiosseivanoff. In this report the following was ascribed to him: "Unlike Germany which resorted to military strength and terrorized her

neighbors....

neighbors by threats of aggression, Bulgaria wishes to solve her international problems by peaceful negotiation." Needless to say, the Prime Minister would not dream of making such a statement regarding Germany or another great power. As a result, Reuter's correspondent was interned until it was explained that the news had not emanated from Sofia. The agency did not, however, issue a denial, but simply expressed regret that an error had occurred. This is an unhappy example of British propaganda and has been the cause of considerable embarrassment to their Legation here.

Respectfully yours,

Hugh Millard

Hugh Millard
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Enclosure:
Translation of interview
given to PARIS-SOIR

File 710/800
HM/RG

Enclosure to despatch No. 378,
of December 16, 1939, Sofia.

TRANSLATION OF PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT
TO PARIS-SOIR

Bulgaria is resolutely pacific. She does not seek, nor does she wish a conflict because in 60 years of independent existence she has had several wars with unhappy results for the country. She does not intend even eventually to exploit the difficulties of a neighbouring country. Bulgaria untiringly supports Balkan solidarity. She did so even at the time of the sanctions risking to displease Italy which had on many occasions showed her sympathy and friendship. She gave evidence of that at the conferences of Montreux and Nyon.

Bulgaria was obliged to decline the offer of joining the Balkan Entente which was made early this year out of considerations similar to those which did not permit her adhesion to that agreement at the time it was formed. The Balkan Entente provides for a consolidation and defense of the frontiers with neighboring countries on the basis of the Treaty of Neuilly. Bulgaria cannot assume such an obligation. The Bulgarian people cannot give up the hope of obtaining by peaceful negotiation the frontiers which this country had in 1913. Bulgaria cannot confirm a second time the loss of territories which had belonged to her

for....

for many years and loss of which hampers her economic development. Bulgaria has not taken advantage of her territorial claims for purposes of agitation. She carried out loyally the provisions of the peace treaty. She has seen the frontiers of Hungary and Turkey, her allies in the World War rectified, whereas nothing was done for her own frontiers. On every occasion she proved her pacific European spirit. Her position is clear, sincere and loyal.

As regards the formation of a Balkan bloc, for which, it seems, negotiations are in progress at this moment among the Balkan states, the Bulgarian Government has neither been informed thereof nor requested to give its opinion on the subject. It is prepared, however, to examine, with a desire to cooperate for Balkan peace, any offer on condition that it will not exclude consideration of the vital interests of the Bulgarian people.

Enclosure to despatch No. 378,
of December 16, 1939, Sofia.

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CROSS-REFERENCE FILE

NOTE

SUBJECT Bulgaria's foreign policy as it regards the European war.

Reports concerning- Statement by the Foreign Minister.

mr

774.00/103

For the original paper from which reference is taken

See #2
(Despatch, telegram, instruction, letter, etc.)

Dated Mar. 23, 1940 **From / To** Bulgaria (Earle)

File No. 740.0011 European War, 1939/2558

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1—1540

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103

CROSS-REFERENCE FILE

NOTE

SUBJECT Bulgaria's foreign policy;

Statement of Foreign Minister regarding-

mr

774.00/104

For the original paper from which reference is taken

See #15
(Despatch, telegram, instruction, letter, etc.)

Dated May 1, 1940 From / To Bulgaria (Earle)

File No. 740.0011 European War, 1939/3451

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1—1540

W 104

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
RECEIVED
JUN 25 1940
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

ADVISER ON POLITICAL RELATIONS
MR. DUNN
JUN 24 1940
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

~~RAD~~
DCR rpi

TRANSLATION

A Statement made by Mr. Ivan Popoff, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria on the Foreign Policy of Bulgaria, on the 28th of April last and released to the organ of the Association of Bulgarian Newspaper Men.

"The external situation of Bulgaria is similar to that of all countries which have been spared by the War and which are exerting a permanent watch to prevent being involved in the conflict and thus make still more complicated the already difficult situation. I should even emphasize that the recollection of the past wars makes much deeper our sympathies for the victims of the present war and strengthens our will to safeguard the country from a new suffering.

"Our policy of peace and neutrality is finding appreciation not only by the neutral states but also by the belligerents. This policy is in full accord with the interests of the country and the sentiments of the nation and no one has ground to question its sincerity.

"Our relations with our neighbors are most friendly and inspired by the well conceived interest of the Balkan countries as a whole, whose supreme duty in these fateful days is to use all efforts with a view to preserving for our people their most previous possession - peace - which will insure them tranquility and progress in an atmosphere of full confidence between themselves. This confidence can, better than anything else, create conditions for a friendly and lasting settlement of all questions in the name of our common interests.

"I do not see - at least for the present - that there is a danger for some of our neighbors, but if such a danger reveals itself in the future I wish to stress once more than Bulgaria, as a loyal member of the Balkan community will do nothing which could aggravate the position of her neighbors and imperil the mutual confidence which we all need for the future of the Balkans."

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JUN 25 1940

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TELEGRAM RECEIVED

DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
OCT 22 1940
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FROM

LAR

GRAY

Sofia

Dated October 21, 1940

Rec'd 11:23 a.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

142, October 21, 3 p.m.

In answer to a telephone inquiry from the PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER early this morning I have made the following statement "The King and people of Bulgaria above all else want peace; and as one of the most tolerant nations in the world they want no racial or religious persecution. But what most ~~likely~~ OF THE peoples of Europe today want may be very different from what they are forced to take."

I have done this in order that the American people may know the truth about the difficult if not tragic position of Bulgaria.

EARLE

DDH

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OCT 23 1940

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JR

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (C)

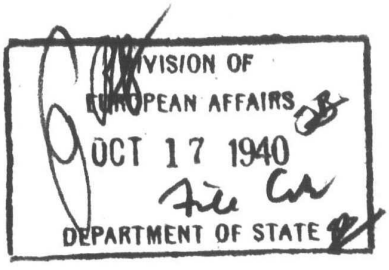
FROM Sofia

Dated October 16, 1940

Rec'd 7:35 a.m., 17th.

Secretary of State,

Washington.



139, October 16, 3 p.m.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

The British Minister has just seen King Boris and transmitted a message from King George congratulating him on his peaceful policy and advising him to continue this policy as participation in the war on Germany's side would be disastrous for Bulgaria with the advent of final British victory.

The King replied that he hoped to be able to maintain Bulgarian neutrality but that he was entirely in the dark as to Germany's intentions but hoped also the German activity would be in the Mediterranean. He further said that in the past he thought he could in some measure foretell events but he now admitted he did not even try to prophesy a day ahead.

The British Minister tells me the King gave him the impression of being sincerely pro-democracy but that his strongest impression was that King Boris was now an indecisive and thoroughly frightened man.

CSB EARLE

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OCT 22 1940

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FEB 15 1943
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NO. 5.(R-3)

DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL
Istanbul, Turkey, January 18, 1943.

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1943 FEB 11 PM 3 14
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 12 1943
DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: An Editorial from ZORA on Bulgarian Foreign Policy.

1-NE
2-OSS
2/15/43
CB

2-C&C
mr 2/19/43

AIR MAIL

Add. Dis
1-EW
CB

THE HONORABLE
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

SIR:

I have the honor to present below an editorial by Mr. Danail Krapchev, Editor of ZORA, in which he shows how the present foreign policy of Bulgaria is the logical consequence of the policy she has followed ever since the first World War. He holds that this policy is dictated by the force of circumstances and by geopolitical facts. The editorial presents a view of affairs that is widely held in Bulgaria. This statement was prepared by Floyd H.Black.

It is reasonable to enquire to what extent Bulgaria was drawn into the war on the side of the Axis and continues to support the Axis policies solely as the result of pressure, or intimidation, exercised by Germans, and to what extent her policy is the result of the decisions of her own Government deliberately taken. Is Bulgaria to be regarded as a mere cog in the Axis machine or is she pursuing a very definite policy of her own in the Balkans? Of course Bulgaria, relying only on her own strength could do nothing, but under the present circumstances, and with German aid, she is able to look upon herself as playing the same kind of role in the Balkans that Germany is playing in Europe as a whole, that is, Bulgaria regards herself as having seized and intending to maintain the hegemony of the Balkans. She is pursuing her own policy and not merely following in the wake of the German chariot. Mr. Krapchev, editor of ZORA, has an editorial on this general theme entitled: 'The Foreign Policy of the Kingdom is a General Bulgarian Policy'. The editorial is found in ZORA of January 12, 1943, and reads as follows in free translation:

The

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MAR 18 1943

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PS/HCW

"The foreign policy of Bulgaria today is not of recent origin. It is a continuation of the foreign policy the Kingdom has followed since the world war.

"The victors in the last war again joined the fate of Bulgaria with that of Germany by reproducing in Neuilly the Treaty of Versailles, which was imposed on the Germans. Not only was the Reich a revisionary State, but Bulgaria also ceaselessly stood for the revision of the Treaty of Neuilly. For this policy the victorious Italy of Mussolini also declared itself, for it was also wronged by the Paris Peace Treaty.

"Aside from the similar sufferings of Bulgaria and Germany in the interval between the two wars, which welded the sympathies between them, the Danube River has its source in the German Black Forest and also washes the shores of northern Bulgaria. Only the blind are unable to appreciate this geopolitical fact. As a result of all this, to which many other considerations might be added, Mr. Nikola Mushanov, Prime Minister of the 'National Block', first visited Berlin and was received by the Chancellor Adolph Hitler, Leader of the German nation. Mr. Mushanov, in his capacity as Prime Minister of the Kingdom, when he was in Belgrade turned down the entrance of Bulgaria into the Balkan Entente and in this way, in spite of the danger encountered, clearly outlined Bulgarian foreign policy in the name of all parties which were united in the 'National Block', and this took place at a time when the Kingdom was threatened on all sides.

"There is one more fact which until the present has not been sufficiently appreciated and explained at home. After the complete triumph of national socialism in Germany, where it took over the whole authority, the Reich broke with the London market, where it was buying with foreign exchange the raw materials for its industry and livelihood, and turned first of all to Bulgaria, with which it made a clearing agreement. Bulgaria accepted this manner of trade and has practised it uninterruptedly to the present time. More than half of Bulgarian exports were directed toward the eighty million people of Germany. The clearing agreements which have been practised between Bulgaria and Germany for the last ten years are the corner-stones of new Europe. He understands nothing who has not understood this - money has ceased to play that role which it played formerly, and which it is playing in the exchange relations of the Democratic States.

"Because

"Because of all this the Bulgarian nation welcomed with open arms the German soldiers who came into the Balkans.

"It is true that the Bulgarian Bolsheviks repented later and invented the myth of the 'Fatherland Front', of which they are the only members. They, however, regretted this when it came to war between the Soviets and Germany. Regret, however, is allowed only to children when they are playing with walnuts. The foundation of the present foreign policy of Bulgaria was laid originally with the consent of almost all Bulgarians. Whoever says 'a' must also say 'b'."

Respectfully yours,

Burton Y. Berry

Burton Y.Berry
American Consul.

To Department in original and hectograph.

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FHB:sa

Hecto sent to Dca
HD

CROSS-REFERENCE FILE

NOTE

SUBJECT Foreign Relations and possible groupings, in Bulgaria.

Encloses memoranda prepared by the Foreign Office Research Department regarding -.

774.00/109

For the original paper from which reference is taken

See Letter
(Despatch, telegram, instruction, letter, etc.)

Dated October 12, 1943 From / To British Embassy

File No. 800.00/394

1—1540

PS/RN

774.00/10-2544

CROSS-REFERENCE FILE

NOTE

SUBJECT Position in Hungary and Bulgaria.

EMS

774.00/10-2544

For the original paper from which reference is taken

See Tel. #9200
(Despatch, telegram, instruction, letter, etc.)

Dated October 25, 1944 **From** To/ Great Britain

File No. 740.00119 E.W./10-2544

CS/HS

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1—1540

774.00/12-1244

CROSS-REFERENCE FILE

NOTE

SUBJECT Rumania interested in securing representation in United Nations capitals as reported and Rumania naturally concerned it is not being given equal treatment with Bulgaria on this question.

For the original paper from which reference is taken

See Tel.#55
(Despatch, telegram, instruction, letter, etc.)

Dated Dec. 12, 1944 From/To Rumania

File No. 771.00/12-1244

1—1540

774.00/12-1244 EG

Confidential F

Central File: Decimal File 774.00, Political Relations Of States, Relations; Bi-Lateral Treaties., Bulgaria And The World, December 16, 1939 - Dec. 12, 1944. December 16, 1939 - December 12, 1944. MS Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States: Records of the U.S. Department of State, 1930-1944: Records of the Department of State Relating to Political Relations of Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States, 1940-1944. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5111395295%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC. Accessed 23 June 2025.